

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A telescopic unit as claimed in claim 1 ~~8~~, wherein:

a plural number of press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner surface of the first tubular member so that the press receiving surface portions are arranged in the circumferential direction with a distance between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion; and

a plural number of press applying surface portions are formed on the outer surface of the second tubular member so that the press applying surface portions are arranged in the circumferential direction at locations respectively corresponding to said press receiving surface portions, with a distance between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion.

3. (Original) A telescopic unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

a receiving step portion is formed between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion of the first tubular member; and

a catching step portion that is adapted to catch the corresponding receiving step portion when the second tubular member is rotated circumferentially in the aforementioned other direction relative to the first tubular member is formed between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion of the second tubular member.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

in the shape of an involute curve and corresponds to the cross section of the first tubular member;

a receiving member in the bottom of said first tubular member; and

a catching member on the outer surface of the upper end of said second tubular member, said catching member being adapted to catch said receiving member when said second tubular member projects to its fullest extent; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted;

said receiving member is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

said catching member is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A telescopic unit, according to claim 6, wherein:~~ A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section has a shape comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve;

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section whose shape corresponds to that of the first tubular member and is comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve;

